(b) whether any target for the same upto the end of 1995 has been fixed by Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (c) The Second All India Census of Small Scale Industries (SSI) (1988) carried out by the Development Commissioner (SSI), Government of India had revealed that there were 85 Districts in the country each with more than 2,000 registered SSI units. It has been decided that while State Financial Corporations (SFCs) would act as the principal financing agency for SSI in 40 out of 85 Districts, commercial banks would act as the principal financing agency in the remaining 45 Districts. Reserve Bank of India have asked the banks to open specialised branches in 45 districts where there are more than 2000 SSI units.

INCOME TAX EXEMPTION TO AGRICULTURE SECTOR

2543. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that agriculture which constitutes 70 per cent of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is totally exempted from the purview of Income-tax;

(b) whether India is the only country in the world that does not tax the farm income; and

(c) without diluting the concept of social justice by continuing tax exemption to small and marginal farmers upto a limit of Rs. 2.00 lakhs, whether Government propose to bring the rich farmers under the tax net thereby obviating the need to resort to deficit financing ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) :

(a) and (b) As per National Accounts Statistics published by the Central Statistical Organisation, the percentage contribution of agriculture, forestry and fishing to Gross Domestic Product for 1991-92, at current prices was 32.2 per cent. Agriculture alone contributed 29.7 per cent. Under the Constitution, the Union Government is not empowered to levy tax on agricultural income as such. However, since 1974, agricultural income of individuals, HUFs, etc., who are otherwise liable to income-tax, is included in the total income for rate purposes. Further, some states in India are levying agricultural Income-tax.

(c) There is no proposal, at present, to levy income-tax on agricultural income.

COMPENSATION TO EXPORTERS FOR DELAYED CREDIT

2544. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that RBI has announced its decision to ensure compensation to exporters for delayed credit; and

(b) if so, the details there of.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India have advised all scheduled commercial banks to pay compensation stipulated in terms of Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India (FEDAI's) circular No. 2|92 of April 13, 1992 in lieu of delay in affording credit in respect of credit advices complete in all respects to the exporter without waiting for a demand from him.